

Message Text

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TAGS; PFOR, ME, YO

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM PRESIDENT TITO TO PRESIDENT NIXON
ON MIDDLE EAST

1. YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR GRANFIL CALLED ON THE SECRETARY
NOVEMBER 3 TO PRESENT A PERSONAL LETTER FROM PRESIDENT
TITO TO PRESIDENT NIXON.

2. LETTER GIVES TITO'S VIEWS ON GENESIS OF MIDDLE EAST
CRISIS, NAMELY THAT IT IS RESULT OF ISRAEL'S POLICY OF
HOLDING BY FORCE TERRITORIES OF ITS ARAB NEIGHBORS AND
DENYING LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN ARABS. LETTER
EMPHASIZES DANGER INHERENT IN PRESENT SITUATION AND PUTS
FORTH VIEW THAT COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT OF MIDDLE EAST
PROBLEM SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT DELAY ON BASIS OF
FULL RESPECT FOR UNSC RESOLUTIONS 338, 339 AND 340.
LETTER CLOSES WITH EXPRESSION OF CONFIDENCE THAT PRESIDENT
NIXON WILL USE US INFLUENCE TO ENGAGE IN SEARCH FOR PEACFUL
AND JUST SOLUTION TO CRISIS.

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3. IN PRESENTING THE LETTER, GRANFIL OBSERVED THAT YUGO-
SLAVIA WAS DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN MIDDLE
EAST AS IS NATURAL CONSIDERING YUGOSLAVIA'S PROXIMITY TO
AREA. GRANFIL SAID HE WAS INSTRUCTED TO ASSURE US THAT

PRESIDENT TITO, IN HIS CONTACTS WITH ARAB HEADS OF STATE,

HAD ALWAYS EMPHASIZED NEED FOR THEM TO RECOGNIZE THE EXISTENCE AND SECURITY REQUIREMENTS OF ISRAEL. GOY IS INTERESTED, GRANFIL CONTINUED, IN US VIEW OF WHAT CONTRIBUTION YUGOSLAVIA MIGHT MAKE TOWARD ACHIEVING A LASTING SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

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4. AFTER READING TITO'S LETTER, THE SECRETARY TOLD GRANFIL HE COULD ASSURE PRESIDENT TITO THAT US WOULD PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN THE QUEST FOR A DURABLE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. PRESIDENT NIXON WOULD REPLY TO PRESIDENT TITO'S LETTER IN DUE COURSE.

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5. THE US, THE SECRETARY NOTED, IS STRIVING TO GET THE CEASEFIRE FIRMLY ESTABLISHED SO THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO MOVE ON TOWARDS A MORE PERMANENT PHASE OF NEGOTIATION. THE SECRETARY INDICATED THAT THE PURPOSE OF HIS FORTHCOMING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT AND OTHER INTERESTED COUNTRIES WILL BE TO SEEK A FORMULA FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT CEASEFIRE AND TO GATHER INFORMATION ON THEIR VIEWS CONCERNING FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS.

6. TURNING TO GRANFIL'S QUESTION ABOUT YUGOSLAVIA'S ROLE, THE SECRETARY STRESSED THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE ARABS TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE US NEEDS TIME TO CARRY OUT ITS EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE CONFLICT. THE US CANNOT BE PUSHED TOO FAST OR TOO FAR. WE HAVE A DOMESTIC PROBLEM RESULTING FROM THE WAR AND THE ARABS SHOULD REALIZE THERE IS NO UTILITY IN TRYING TO PRESSURE THE US.

7. IN BRIEF EXCHANGE AT THE DOOR, GRANFIL EMPHASIZED THE GOY VIEW THAT THE NON-ALIGNED HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN WORLD. THE SECRETARY REJOINED THAT THE US SOMETIMES FINDS THAT THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES ARE MORE CRITICAL OF US THAN THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. GRANFIL SUGGESTED IN PARTING THAT IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF THE US THAT THE ARAB NATIONS BECOME MORE FULLY INDEPENDENT AND

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REMAIN NON-ALIGNED. KISSINGER

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